

RECOGNIZING WALTER MORRIS

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the first African-American paratrooper to be enlisted in the U.S. Army. Walter Morris, a retired Second Lieutenant who passed away at the age of 92, was the first African-American man accepted for airborne duty in the Army. At a time where segregation existed prevalently in our country, Mr. Morris broke a barrier, setting the precedent for an additional 400 Black paratroopers to serve before the end of World War II.

At the time, then Sergeant Morris led training sessions to mimic parachute practice after duty hours to raise the morale of African-American soldiers. It is the strength, courage, dedication, and camaraderie of Mr. Morris for which I am humbled to honor his life here today.

Mr. Morris was an original member of the Triple Nickels, a battalion later assigned to a secret mission titled Operation Firefly, a maneuver for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. The Triple Nickels had to minimize the damage from aerial attacks by Japanese balloon bombs over the Pacific Northwest coast. The Army kept this operation secret because they wanted to disguise the fact that the Japanese balloon bombs had actually reached the U.S. coastline.

Mr. Morris's actions paved the way for African-American soldiers to become part of one of the most prestigious departments of the U.S. Army, the 82nd Airborne Division. He co-founded the African-American Cultural Association, an education facility for adults and children. Now in its 34th year, the association is a way to ensure the legacy of the Triple Nickels.

Together with Lt. Morris's two daughters, grandson, and two great-grandsons, we remember the life of an American Hero—someone who stood tall in the face of adversity and in unison with his fellow soldiers and his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNETTE BOWLING

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and servant of humankind, Mrs. Annette Bowling, Executive Director of the Albany Advocacy Resource Center (ARC). The Albany ARC will honor Mrs. Bowling for her forty years of dedicated service and leadership at their 50th anniversary celebration on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 6 o'clock in the evening at the Albany Hilton Garden Inn in Albany, Georgia.

The Albany ARC was founded in 1963 to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities in the Albany, Georgia community. In its fifty years of operation, it has become one of the largest and most successful private provider agencies in the state of Georgia.

Mrs. Bowling began working at the Albany ARC in 1974 after her son was the first child in the state of Florida to undergo open heart surgery. As a single mom, she relied on the support she received from her community to get through this difficult time. This inspired her decision to dedicate her life to helping others and she then embarked on what was to be a long and fulfilling career at the Albany ARC.

Mrs. Bowling's work with the Center since 1974 has made a difference in the lives of many Georgians, and has helped improve the quality and dignity of life for those individuals served by the Albany ARC. When she first arrived in Albany, there were no community services or resources for people with disabilities. Since then, she has passionately directed and advocated for many programs to improve the lives of so many Georgians with disabilities. Truly, any cause to which Annette Bowling's name was attached commandeered respect.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays once said, "He who starts behind in the race of this life, must forever remain behind or run faster than the man in front." Mrs. Bowling has been the driving force behind programs that have helped improve the quality of rehabilitation and disability services for those who need these services to help them to "catch up." She has contributed significantly to the Albany ARC, making it the great community resource that it is today.

In addition to her work with the Albany ARC, Mrs. Bowling has served on many regional and statewide boards of directors, including the ARC of Georgia, Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center, Southwest Georgia Easter Seals, Community Institute of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, and the Georgia Budget Policy Committee. She also serves as Chairperson of the Division of Rehabilitation Services Council of the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance and has co-chaired the Governor's Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Community Based Services. Her office is filled with hundreds of awards and honors but the trophy that Mrs. Bowling is most proud of is the incarnation of her vision that those with disabilities can be productive members of society.

Mrs. Bowling has accomplished much in her life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her husband of thirty-two years, George, her son and her granddaughter.

Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Bowling has certainly paid her rent and paid it well. Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Through every stage of her life, Mrs. Bowling has always given of herself to others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to a phenomenal woman, Mrs. Annette Bowling, and in thanking her for her forty years of dedicated service to the Albany Advocacy Resource Center, to the Albany, Georgia community and to thousands of families with disabilities across our great state of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DAWN DAUER

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dawn Dauer of Cape Girardeau, Missouri for her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the local community. Ms. Dauer currently works as a Community Bank President for the Bank of Missouri and serves in the Young Bankers Division and on the Government Relations Committee of the Missouri Bankers Association. Outside of work, she is heavily involved in several different community organizations including the Saint Francis Medical Center Foundation Board, the Southeast Missouri State University Foundation Board, the Missouri Innovation Corporation Board of Directors, the Evangel University Alumni Board of Directors, the Old Town Cape Economic Restructuring Committee, the Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, and Cape First Church.

Ms. Dauer enjoys being able to mentor students from Evangel University in their career and life decisions. She reaches out to young women who are right out of college or trying to find a career path, and guides them to be the best they can be. Ms. Dauer sees her volunteerism and work in the community as her own form of ministry. I am grateful that we have such caring and hardworking members of the Cape Girardeau community, such as Ms. Dawn Dauer. It is my pleasure to recognize her achievement before the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on October 22, 2013. Due to a death in the family being Rita Miskewicz of Summerville, South Carolina, I was unable to make it to Washington. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll No. 551—H.R.185, Paul Brown United States Courthouse, "aye"; Roll No. 552—H.R. 3205, Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act, "aye"; Roll No. 553—On approving the journal, "aye."

HONORING L. GOEBEL PATTON FOR HIS YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring L. Goebel Patton on his 100th Birthday—tomorrow, October 24, and in recognizing his many

years of community service in Southern Illinois.

Considered by many as “Mr. Southern Illinois,” Goebel Patton has worn many hats in his 80+ years of service to the people in his region. Educator, administrator, board member, lodge member, church and community leader, mentor—While this is an impressive list, it does not encompass all the roles that Goebel Patton has filled in service to the people of Southern Illinois.

Goebel Patton began his career as an educator at Logan School in West Frankfort, Illinois in 1931, just prior to his 18th birthday. He served as principal of several area elementary and middle schools before serving as Principal and Superintendent at Frankfort Community High School from 1946–1960. Between 1960 and 1970, Patton put his years of experience in education to use as Director of Public and Professional Relations for the Illinois Education Association before returning to Southern Illinois as Superintendent of Frankfort Community School District No. 168, the school district that he was instrumental in forming, from 1970 to 1984.

A member of the Second Baptist Church in West Frankfort for over 75 years, Patton has had the same impact and influence in that congregation as in his community. He was instrumental in constructing two sanctuaries for the church and organized a weekly Men’s Prayer Group in 1990.

Patton has served on virtually every community and charitable organization in Franklin County. The list includes: Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Salvation Army, Franklin-Williamson Human Services, Egyptian Council, Boy Scouts, JALC Foundation, SIU Foundation and the American Cancer Society. As chairman of the fund raising committee, he helped raise \$600,000 for an Aquatics and Activity Center in West Frankfort. A banquet room in the center was named in his honor.

After his 98th birthday, Patton received a six year appointment to the Board of Trustees of a new private college being organized in West Frankfort. When asked about taking on such a lengthy commitment at his age, he repeated one of his favorite quotes for which he is famous in Southern Illinois—“Community service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing L. Goebel Patton a Happy 100th Birthday and thanking him for a lifetime of community service.

OFFERING A SUMMARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON FLORIDA WATERWAYS ISSUES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 3rd, we held an historic bipartisan Congressional briefing on issues affecting the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee waterways, bringing national attention to the issue of toxic waters that have been plaguing the Treasure Coast. For both those who were unable to attend and for those that were there, I hope the following summary of the briefing will be helpful. For more information on the briefing, in-

cluding a full transcript and video and presentations from panelists, please visit: www.PatrickMurphy.house.gov/IndianRiverLagoon.

COMMUNITY VOICES

It was great to see so many familiar faces from the district who were able to attend our briefing. There was an overwhelming showing of support, with over a hundred community members who came to bring national attention to this pressing issue, leaving us with standing room only. The bus full of dozens of residents that held fundraisers to make the long journey up to Washington, D.C. was unprecedented, and their presence helped demonstrate the gravity of this issue and its impact on the lives of those in the affected communities.

We heard from a variety of community members throughout the briefing including children who told of how their summer was dramatically affected by the pollution in the river, and long-time residents who have seen the problem year after year. We all came together to send many decision makers at the local, state, and federal levels a clear message: This is a serious problem that demands solutions.

PANELIST INPUT

Though because of the government shut-down our federal agency panelists could not attend the briefing, our state and local panelists gave many perspectives and insights into federal, local and state work underway and also discussed what else needs to be done in order to fully address the issue. They included:

Secretary Herschel Vinyard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ernie Barnett, Assistant Executive Director, Everglades Ecosystem Restoration, South Florida Water Management District

Dr. Tom Van Lent, Senior Scientist, Everglades Foundation

Senator JOE NEGRON, Chair of State Select Committee on the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin

Representative Matt Caldwell, Florida House of Representatives—District 79

Representative Heather Fitzenhagen, Florida House of Representatives—District 78

Thomas MacVicar, MacVicar Consulting, Inc.

Mark Perry, Executive Director, Florida Oceanographic Society

Martin County Commissioner Chair Sarah Heard

St. Lucie County Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson

Lee County Commissioner Larry Kiker

Mayor Kevin Ruane, Sanibel, Florida

Todd Bonlarron, Legislative Director, Palm Beach County

Mr. Roland Ottolini, Director, Lee County Division of Natural Resources

Dr. Brian LaPointe, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University

The panelists highlighted many important points and everyone agreed that continuing to fight and urge for funding for existing Army Corps projects is crucial, such as the C-44 Indian River Lagoon Project, Herbert Hoover Dike repairs, and other Everglades restoration projects to provide relief to our imperiled waterways. There was also consensus that provisions in the House Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) will help to move forward on Everglades ecosystem restoration, which has a huge impact on our area.

After passing WRRDA, we will continue to pressure the Army Corps to complete the Chief’s Report for the Central Everglades Planning Project so that these important projects can move forward as well.

MEMBER ADVOCACY

I also was thankful that over 20 Members of Congress came to learn more about this issue and to hear directly from community members on how these toxic waters have affected them. Below is a list of which Members of Congress attended and some of the comments they made:

Senator BILL NELSON—

“There are way too many nutrients in [the water], and I am sure you have already had the testimony of what happens when there is too many nutrients. It is not only that bottle, but that has been going on for years.”

“We have got to continue the appropriations for the Everglades restoration. We have to keep the fire under the Army Corps of Engineers.”

“My ask of you all would be to keep up the pressure.”

House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI—

“When PATRICK MURPHY came in with that bottle I was not sure what was going on. When he told me what that water was, it was really shocking.”

“The fact that all of you are here is a tribute to how important the issue is . . . I think your being here and their support for this elevates this to an issue of national significance.”

House Democratic Whip STENY HOYER (who was so moved by the briefing that he visited the district on October 14th to see the problem firsthand)—

“This is a crucially important issue, not just for Florida, but also for our nation. This is an extraordinary resource, and Florida is a resource. I want to thank you for doing those carwashes to come up here. Saying democracy works is a little tough today, but I have been in office for 45 years. Democracy works. Democracy works because conscientious people take their time and effort to communicate their concerns.”

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman BILL SHUSTER—

On WRRDA legislation: “We worked very hard in the committee to produce a bipartisan product and went through a number of listening sessions from local stakeholders to industries and companies that have interests in the ports, harbors, waterways, and environmental restoration projects.”

“Both Republicans and Democrats both saw the need to make sure we move these projects forward faster and I think anybody that runs any type of organization knows that time is money. So, we get this done faster and we can save money and get these projects closer to completion.”

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member NICK RAHALL

House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member PETER DEFAZIO

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment Ranking Member TIM BISHOP

Co-chair of the Everglades Caucus Rep.

MARIO DIAZ-BALART

Co-chair of the Everglades Caucus and the Florida Delegation Rep. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Member Rep. CHERI BUSTOS

Florida Congressional Delegation Members: Rep. CORRINE BROWN; Rep. TED DEUTCH;